

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

From the Executive Director

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As this issue of the Logbook goes to press, we at VDFP are pleased with our first quarter activities, and are anticipating a substantial increase in our outreach and training efforts as the warmer weather approaches.

As many of you know, in the first week of February we finally consolidated our Richmond headquarters under one roof. Now that VDFP is in our permanent office space, we're able to offer our stakeholders an expanded bookstore, new training and meeting facilities, and a fire service resource library. We hope to schedule an open house in the near future. Until then, please feel free to stop by and see us at any time.

VDFP recently hosted the Governor's Excellence in Fire Services Awards ceremony, and greeted hundreds of visitors to the VDFP booth as part of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association 2005 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium in Virginia Beach. You can read more about the awards ceremony on page 2 of this edition of Logbook.

VDFP also signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS (OEMS) and the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS). This partnership enables the three agencies to deliver one standardized vehicle rescue program in the Commonwealth.

Having shared our recent successes, we are equally excited about several upcoming initiatives in the next few months. First, VDFP is going on a state tour to gather feedback about our 2004 Strategic Plan, *Foundations in Reaching Excellence*, and solicit input on future agency goals.

Second, as we enter the spring and summer months, VDFP offers numerous training classes and professional development options. With our state partners, our staff is working to implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in Virginia, and we are scheduling training classes across the state.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendar for the 2005 Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service which will be held on June 4th. This annual service celebrates the courage and dedication of the fire service by honoring Virginia's bravest who have died while serving our citizens.

For the latest in training, public education and events, please visit our website at www.vafire.com.

Be Safe,



Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr.
ahyde@vdfp.state.va.us

March 2005

HONORING EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S FIRE SERVICE



VDFP's Executive Director, Buddy Hyde and the Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall with the 2005 Governor's Fire Service Award Recipients.

On Friday, February 26, 2005 the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, and the Honorable John W. Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety, jointly presented the third annual Governor's Excellence in Fire Service Awards. Six individuals and one organization were honored for their outstanding contributions in the areas of fire prevention, fire safety leadership and fire response.

"These awards showcase the selfless service and dedication of Virginia's Fire Service to the citizens of our Commonwealth", says Governor Mark Warner. "The commitment of each of these persons is an inspiration to us all, and ensures that Virginia is a safer place to live and work. "

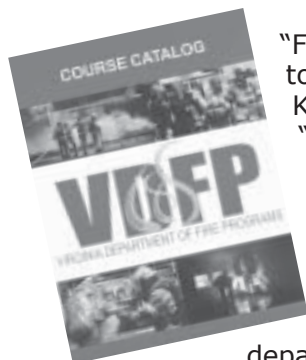
Lora Sharkey, chairperson of the Virginia Fire Services Board, says the selection process was a difficult one. "The Virginia Fire Services Board was impressed with all of the submissions, but our winners were clear. The prevention specialists, responders, and trainers selected have made great contributions to public safety through outstanding service in their respective field."

Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski of York County Department of Fire and Life Safety, received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Services Award*; Wanda G. Willis of the Harrisonburg Fire Department received the *Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Education Award*; Chief Richard E. Burch, Jr. of the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue

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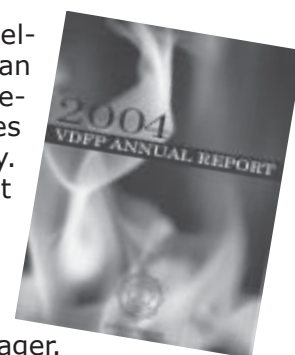
VDFP PUBLISHES ANNUAL REPORT AND COURSE CATALOG

In an effort to better communicate its programs, initiatives, and professional development opportunities, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs recently published an *Annual Report* and *Course Catalog*. The 2004 *Annual Report* highlights achievements in the major programmatic areas of VDFP, while the *Course Catalog* provides an in-depth look at courses offered by VDFP and the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy. Both printed documents offer alternative methods of informing the public about VDFP's role in Virginia's Fire Service.



"For the past several years, VDFP has been utilizing the website to list courses, course updates and agency statistics", said Kelli Turner, Communications, Public Affairs and Education Manager.

"We listened to the input from our stakeholders during the strategic planning process and produced printed documents to compliment our website. We hope these documents will be useful to members of the fire services without internet access and help educate those not familiar with the multi-facets of Virginia's fire services."



For copies of the *Annual Report* or the *Course Catalog*, check with your local fire department or contact VDFP. The documents are also available online at www.vafire.com.

VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

Spring Safety Tip

Winter's over, and it's time to check all of the equipment on the rig.

1. Examine nozzles for damage and imperfections. The deflectors on our nozzles regulate the cone pattern of the stream; if they are missing or damaged, the effectiveness of the stream is compromised. Likewise, we should clean and lubricate the nozzles to ensure operability.

2. Check small tools for metal flaws. Small tools may be nicked by the nature of the job, so if flaws are found, file them down or replace the tool.

3. Don't forget to examine your lifelines and utility rope. If the rope is extremely soiled or damaged, consider replacing the lines as soon as possible. Also, is it time to change the fire hose?

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

Kitchen Fire Safety

Make sure appliances are allowed to cool before putting them away, and cords are never wrapped around warm appliances.

Did You Know?

In 2003 there were **1,167** kitchen fires resulting in an estimated property loss of **\$6.2 million** causing **87** injuries and **3** deaths.

* Source: Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System

HONORING EXCELLENCE...

(continued from page 2)

department received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Management Award*. Robert L. Ditch of Tidewater received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Training Award*; John F. Flippo of Loudon County Department of Fire and Rescue Services received the *Excellence in Virginia Fire Prevention Award*; and Chesterfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services received the *Outstanding Fire Department Response Award*.

The 2005 Governor's Fire Service Awards took place during the opening ceremonies of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association 2005 Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium in Virginia Beach. The evening featured remarks by Secretary John Marshall, Buddy Hyde, VDFP Executive Director, and James Dishner, President of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Bob Dipoli, President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs offered the keynote address, emphasizing the important role that America's Fire Service plays in protecting our nation.

CERTIFIED BY PRO-BOARD

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs is presently certified by The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ) or 'ProBoard' in sixteen (16) different levels. It is anticipated that all of the HTR Programs that meet or exceed the technician levels will become certified in 2005. Virginia became certified in 1982 and was one of the first states to become professionally certified. Visit <http://www.vafire.com/Npqs.htm> for details on National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ) or 'ProBoard' accreditation.

ARFF FEATURED ON CBS

VDFP's Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter (ARFF) Division was recently featured on the Richmond television station WTVR CBS-6. On Wednesday, February 23rd, ARFF Chief Tom Phalen hosted a Media Day during the ARFF continuing education class. Local television stations and newspapers were invited to experience a live airplane fire simulation. CBS 6 sent a reporter and video crew out to cover the training session, and ran a story during the six o'clock news showcasing fire service personnel, and the VDFP simulator.



Virginia Department of Fire Programs
1005 Technology Park Drive,
Richmond, VA 23059-4500
Phone: 804/ 371-0220
Fax: 804/ 371-3444
E-mail: vdfp.mail@vdfp.state.va.us

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Northern Virginia Regional Fire Officer Seminar
March 12-13, 2005
Fairfax, Va

Southside Regional Fire School Ft. Pickett
March 19-20, 2005
Blackstone, VA

Albemarle County Regional Fire School
March 19-20, 2005
Charlottesville, VA

ARFF Training
Mar. 21-26, 2005
Richmond, VA

April

Southampton Regional Fire School
April 2-3, 2005
Franklin, Virginia

Rockingham Co. Regional Fire School
April 16-17, 2005
Harrisonburg, VA

Caroline County Regional Fire School
April 23-24, 2005
Bowling Green, VA

Danville/Pittsylvania Co Regional Fire School -
April 30-May 1, 2005
Danville, VA

VSFB Board Meeting
April 21-22, 2005
Bristol, VA

**Honor Guard is needed for the 2005
Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial
Service on June 4, 2005. Please visit
www.vafire.com for more information.**